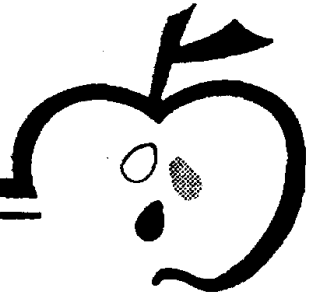
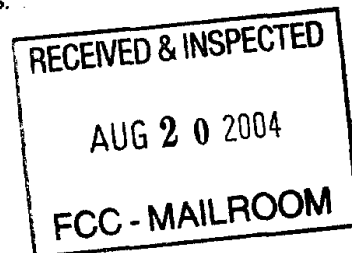


Illinois School for the Deaf

A residential school for students who are deaf and hard of hearing operated by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services.



August 11, 2004



Letter of Appeal
Request for Review
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 - 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Contact Information:

Marybeth Lauderdale, Director of Media Center
Illinois School for the Deaf
125 S. Webster Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650-1877
217/479-4241
217-479-4209 (fax)
dhsrsq7@dhs.state.il.us

RE:

CC Docket No. 02-6
Funding Year 2003
Form 486 Notification Letter, dated 2/11/04
Form 486 Application No: 250821
Form 486 Application ID: MLYR6TEL
Billed Entity Name: Illinois School for the Deaf
Billed Entity No: 73151
Form 471 Application No: 347661
Form 471 Application ID: MBLF471YR2003

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Dear Federal Communications Commission Representative:

This letter is a request to review the Universal Service Administrative Company's July 1, 2004 letter denying an appeal of the Illinois School for the Deaf. The appeal was regarding the February 11, 2004, Universal Service Administrative Company Form 486 Notification Letter for Funding Year 2003 for Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) a copy of which is attached.

125 S. Webster Ave. • Jacksonville, Illinois 62650 • 217-479-4200 Voice or TTY • 217-479-4209 FAX

We are requesting a change for the Funding Request Numbers listed at the end of this document. We are asking that the Adjusted Service Start Date of 10/6/2003 be changed to the earliest possible effective date of 7/1/2003. We are also requesting that the corresponding Adjusted Funding Commitment Amounts be changed to the original Form 471 Funding Commitment Decision totals. This \$14,175.09 increase in funds would make a significant impact on the school and its technology funding. We realize the February 11, 2004 adjustment was made due to the late filing of the Form 486. We have indicated the unusual circumstances and the reasons this occurred below for your review.

1. The Illinois School for the Deaf has been significantly negatively impacted by the Early Retirement Initiative (ERI) of 2002-2003. Forty-six people out of 252 retired in 2003 alone. Three-sevenths (3/7, or 43%) of the ISD Media Center staff retired, including the person who handled the form filing of the Erate program. Beginning April 30, 2003, the Director of Media and Curriculum absorbed the duties of the ISD High School Assistant Principal, due to the High School Principal's retirement.

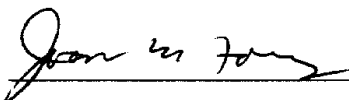
2. Our previous Erate filing records have been stellar. We have consistently adhered to all guidelines and timelines. During the time that the Form 486 should have been submitted, the ISD High School and Media Center were moving across the 52-acre campus, to allow for a Capitol Development Board renovation project. This move, coupled with the ERI compounded the negative impact on the likelihood of timely filing.

3. Deaf students need visual representation for optimum learning. The new technologies afforded by our Erate grant monies level the playing field for our students, providing them with new avenues for visual access to educational materials. The State of Illinois (which administers the Illinois School for the Deaf) is currently facing a deficit of 6 billion dollars. This necessitates that we in the ISD Media Center aggressively pursue alternative sources of funding. Please view the enclosed CD to see how we have made optimum use of various grant monies, including most notably the Erate grant. This CD was produced to pursue yet another grant/award. With the \$14,175 that was cut, we would be able to purchase another rear projection smartboard and a regular smartboard for our Deaf students, when used in tandem with the SmarterKids grant which we have also secured.

Funding Request Number	Form 486 Notification Letter Decision		Requesting Form 486 Notification Letter Decision be changed back to:	
	Adjusted Service Start Date	Adjusted Funding Commitment	Form 471 Earliest Possible Effective Date	Form 471 Funding Commitment Decision
961460	10/6/2003	1,395.87	7/1/2003	1,861.16
961527	10/6/2003	1,423.57	7/1/2003	1,898.10
961532	10/6/2003	9,138.25	7/1/2003	12,184.34
961550	10/6/2003	24,670.17	7/1/2003	32,893.56
961562	10/6/2003	5,897.37	7/1/2003	7,863.16
Total		42,525.23		56,700.32

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



8-12-04

Date

Joan M. Forney
 Superintendent of ISD
 125 S. Webster Ave.
 Jacksonville, IL 62650-1877
 217/479-4201
 217/479-4209 (fax)
dhsvrcw@dhs.state.il.us

enclosures:



Universal Service Administrative Company
Schools & Libraries Division

Administrator's Decision on Appeal - Funding Year 2003-2004

July 1, 2004

Joan M. Forney
Illinois School for the Deaf
125 South Webster Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650-1877

Re: Billed Entity Number: 73151
 471 Application Number: 347661
 486 Applications Number: 250821
 Funding Request Number(s): 961460, 961527, 961532, 961550, 961562
 Your Correspondence Dated: March 15, 2004

After thorough review and investigation of all relevant facts, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its decision in regard to your appeal of SLD's Funding Year 2003 Form 486 Notification Letter for the Application Number indicated above. This letter explains the basis of SLD's decision. The date of this letter begins the 60-day time period for appealing this decision to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If your letter of appeal included more than one Application Number, please note that for each application for which an appeal is submitted, a separate letter is sent.

Funding Request Number(s): 961460, 961527, 961532, 961550, 961562
Decision on Appeal: **Denied in full**
Explanation:

- You seek reversal of the SLD's decision to adjust the Service Start Date (SSD) and reduce the funding request commitment amounts for violating the Form 486 120-day deadline. You admit that the Form 486 was filed after the deadline; however, there were circumstances that prevented you from filing the form on time. You state that the person who handles the form filing for the E-rate program retired in 2003 due to the Early Retirement Initiative. In addition, you state that at the time the Form 486 should have been submitted, the Illinois School for the Deaf High School and Media Center were moving. You request that the SSD be changed back to July 1, 2003, and the funding request commitment amounts be restored.

- Upon review of the appeal letter, the relevant facts, and supporting documentation, the SLD determined that you should have filed the Form 486 for these funding requests within 120-days calculated from the issuance date of the Funding Commitment Decision Letter or the Service Start Date as indicated on the Form 486, whichever is later. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all Forms are submitted to SLD in a timely and correct manner.
- The date of your Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) for Form 471 application 347661 was June 23, 2003. The Service Start Date reported on your Form 486 was July 1, 2003. The postmark date of your Form 486 was February 3, 2004. Since your FCC Form 486 was postmarked more than 120 days after your Service Start Date or the date of your FCDL, whichever is later, the SLD has revised your Service Start Date to the date 120 days before your Form 486 postmark date and reduced your funding commitment amount based on the adjusted Service Start Date.
- The "Form 486 must be postmarked no later than 120 days after the Service Start Date featured on the Form 486 or no later than 120 days after the date of the Funding Commitment Decision Letter, whichever is later." Funding Commitment Decision Letter (Funding Year 2003: 07/01/2003 – 06/30/2004), Important Reminders & Deadlines; Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Receipt of Service Confirmation Form, OMB 3060-0853 (August 2003), Instructions at 6; Form 486 Filing Information, www.sl.universalservice.org/reference/8form486.asp. Since your Form 486 was postmarked after the 120-day filing requirement, the SLD has modified your service start date. The facts present in this appeal do not justify waiving the 120-day filing requirement. Consequently, your appeal is denied.

If you believe there is a basis for further examination of your application, you may file an appeal with the FCC. You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received or postmarked within 60 days of the above date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of the SLD web site or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options.

Schools and Libraries Division
Universal Service Administrative Company